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criticism has revealed, or, at least, greatly clarified. The first group of these is connected with the study of Old Testament characters, a field which has surely long been popular, yet Professor Vernon's illustrative treatment of David and Jeremiah shows how old lines of study may become new. The two characters are well chosen. Men have thought that they knew the one quite intimately, yet the unreality of the David tradition, when compared with the man revealed by present historical study, makes doubly evident the value of knowledge of the true David for virile, vital religion. The other character selected, Jeremiah, was little more than the embodiment of one trait, till historical study gave personal acquaintance with that sensitive, tender, heroic soul, more typically son of man than any other in the ages before the Son of Man. The second contribution of modern Old Testament study is the service it renders by bringing us into touch with "the discovery of the most fundamental truths of our religion." Thus we come to appreciate their real significance, and, too, the possibility of God's revelation of himself to the soul that hungers and thirsts after him. The third great service is the giving of a true basis for a fuller understanding of the character and work of Christ. With an unusual combination of historical and spiritual insight, Professor Vernon has pictured the significance of Jesus whose character alone could make the Old Testament "old." In conclusion, he shows briefly that these three great religious values of the Old Testament "have been clearly offered only by modern scholarship."

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The History of Babylonia and Assyria. By HUGO WINCKLER, PH.D.
Translated and edited by JAMES ALEXANDER CRAIG, PH.D.
Revised by the author. New York: Scribners, 1907. Pp. xii+
352. \$1.50.

This work is a translation of the revised edition of Dr. Winckler's *Geschichte* published in 1899 as a part of Helmolt's *Weltgeschichte*. This translation has had the benefit of revision by the author and also by the translator, the contribution of the latter being usually in the form of signed footnotes.

The history before us shows a mastery of the cuneiform material such as would be expected from the author, who is undoubtedly one of the foremost Assyriologists of the present day. The "historical imagination" of the author, of which the translator speaks, is much in evidence, and is of very great service. Where the data are scanty the author has not hesitated to infer the relations of events, with results that are fre

quently suggestive and illuminating. The style in general is clear, although the author's fulness of knowledge and the brevity of treatment make some passages obscure at first reading. The separate consideration of the history of each of the nations, Babylonia and Assyria, here found is probably better than the combined treatment ordinarily employed. But the resulting gaps in the Assyrian history, with references to the previous treatment, seriously interrupt the continuity; some repetition would have been preferable.

The condensed style of treatment, made necessary by the size of the book, has usually been carried out very effectively. The treatment of the sources, however, is very brief and general. Some historical incidents, as for example the campaign of Sennacherib against Hezekiah, are considered with a brevity that seems excessive. The absence of any bibliography is a serious lack.

This book is not adapted for popular use, nor was it probably so intended. The student of the subject will find it an unusually suggestive book, but he must use it with much discrimination. It is evident from what has already been said that the personal conclusions of the author are a prominent element; and many of these conclusions are of course uncertain. It is to be regretted that often in such cases the specific reasons for the conclusion have not been clearly indicated. On disputed points already discussed by others, the author's view alone is ordinarily given, with no hint of the possibility of another. Occasionally the treatment of such a point is merely confusing, as in regard to the relation of the Medes and the Umman-Manda. The author's well-known views concerning the dependence of Old Testament religion on that of the Babylonians lead to occasional dogmatic assertions without evidence.

The index is very comprehensive and satisfactory. The map is good, but a map, or maps, giving a larger percentage of the places mentioned in the book would be a great improvement. The translation is ordinarily very well done, and the notes of the translator are a valuable addition.

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The Book of Esther. "Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges Series," with Introduction and Notes, by REV. A. W. STREANE, D.D. Oxford: Cambridge University Press, 1908. Pp. xxxiv + 80. 1s. 6d.

Intermittently for more than twenty-five years have the volumes of the "Cambridge Bible Series" of commentaries been issuing from the